which have introduced their own credit cards and the number of credit card holders (bank wise) are given below:—

Name of the Bank	No. of Credit Card holders	As on
Andhra Bank	77,608	31.3.94
Bank of Baroda	1,60,632	30.9.94
Bank of India	33,674	30.9.94
Vijaya Bank	42,176	30.9.94
Canara Bank	2,12,168	30.9.94
Central Bank of India	87,142	30.9.94

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India had issued instructions to all scheduled commercial banks in June 1989, inter-alia, emphasising that it may not be advantageous or economical if too many banks introduce credit cards of their own. In case any bank desires to enter into domestic credit card business it would be better for it to have a suitable tie-up arrangement with one of the banks which have already introduced credit card.

Customs Duty on news-print

229. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kalkar Committee and the Estimates Committee had recommended the imposition of Customs duty on standard newsprint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to impose customs duty on newsprint as per those recommendations;

(d) it so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M- V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kelkar Committee in its long-term policy recommendations, inter-alia suggested a move away from the administered pricing and quantitative allocation policy regime by introducing an OGL import facility to all news papers with a tariff rate of 40% with deca-nalisation. The Estimate Committee einter-alia, endorsed the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee with regard to long-term policy on newsprint.

(c) to (e) In view of the ensuing Union Budget 1995-96, it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter at this stage-

Master plan for drag control

230. SHRI S. AUSTIN:

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to National Master Plan for Drug Control (1994-2000) the menace of drugs has posed a serious threat to the country;

(b) whether inspite of euforce-ment of anti-drugs law, drug addic tion is on the increase in the country;

(c) if so whether Government pro pose to make any amendment to the said law;

(d) if so, the details diereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) A draft National Master Plan for Orug Abuse Control has been prepared by an Inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted for the purpose, ike Draft Master Plan underlines die vulnerability of people to drugs. It has suggested various steps, for improving the effectiveness of counter narcotics efforts both for supply reduction and demand reduction.

(b) Information about addicts registered and addicts detoxified at de-addiction centres is as follows:—

Year	Addicts registered	Addicts detoxified
1989-90	1,31,360	38,903
1990-91	2,26,935	56,649
1991-92	2,53,212	71,225
1992-93	2,70,173	85,115
1993-94	2,90,628	1 01.067

(c) to (e) The general thrust of the Draft Master Plan is that there is certain unnecessary stringency in he law.

investment Protection Treaty between India and Nethrlands

231. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nether-ands have decided to sign Invest-icnt Protection Treaty:

(b) if so, the main features of the roposed agreement;

(c) the time by which this agree-ent is likely to be signed;

(d) whether any such agreement *as* so far been signed by the Go-srnment with other countries; and

(e) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M- V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Negotiations oh a Bilateral investment Protection Agreement with the Netherlands have commenced but have not been concluded. Until the negotiations conclude successfully it will not be possible to indicate with finality the main features of the proposed agreement; or other matters connected therewith.

(d) Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements have been signed with the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation.

(e) the main provisions of these Agreements include, inter alia,, protection of Investments of either country in the other country, Most Favoured Nation Treatment in res-' pect of investments/investors, Na-. tionaI Treatment, settlement of in-